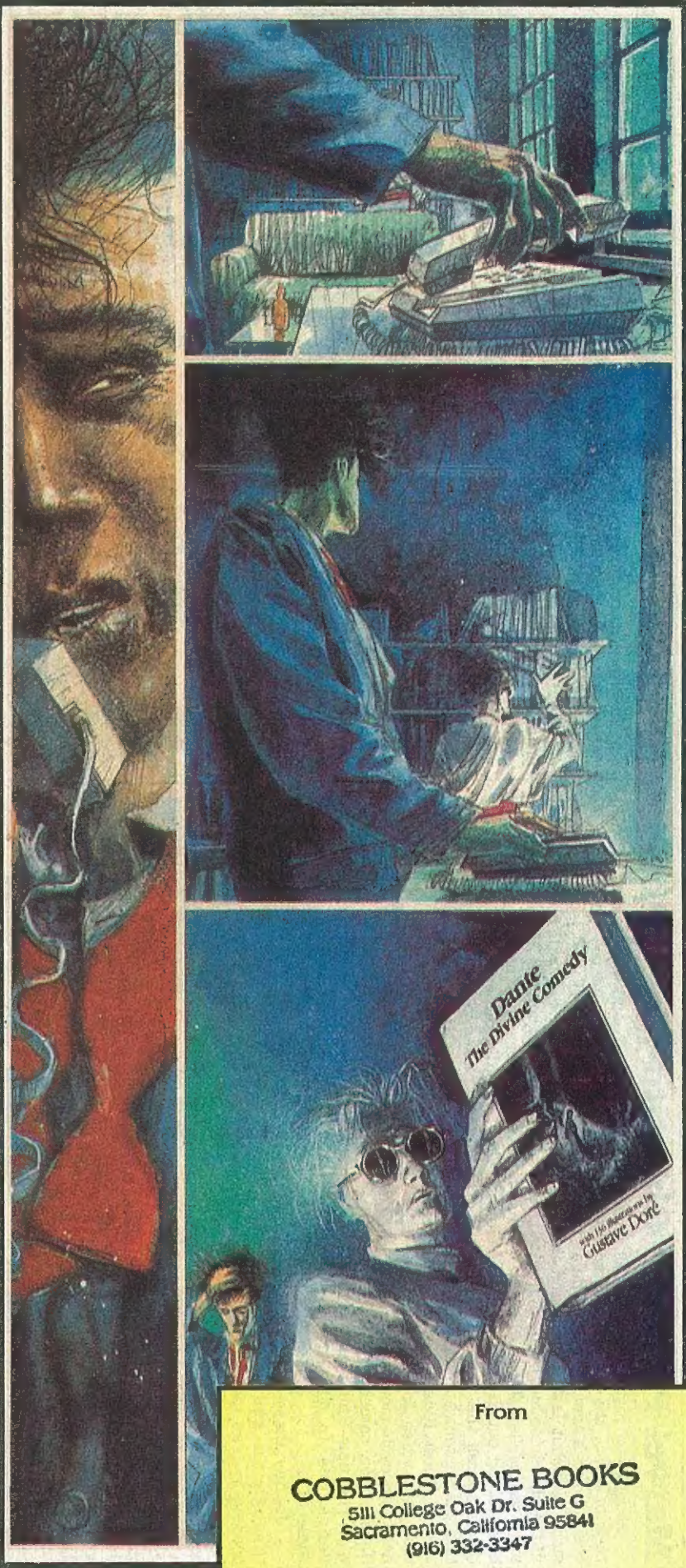
COMIC SHOP NEWS



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kid eternity returns

From

COBBLESTONE BOOKS
5111 College Oak Dr. Suite G
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A Comics Specialty Outlet

Kid Eternity ™&©1991 DC Comics

Annual Families Return for '91

Three New Annuals Debut

Last year, Marvel abandoned its Annual format of years past; instead of offering a single all-encompassing storyline that ran through every annual, they broke their annuals down into a series of "families," with each family comprising a different interrelated storyline. Marvel was confident that fans would prefer these more compact, interwoven adventures--and they were obviously right! Marvel knows a good thing when they see it, so they're going with the Annual Family format again this year, beginning in April.

The first Marvel Annual Family will consist of ***Daredevil Annual #7*** (on sale April 4th), ***Punisher Annual #4*** (on sale April 11th), and ***Captain America Annual #10*** (on sale April 18th). Nick Fury and Hydra play a major role in the storyline and will appear in all three annuals. Baron Strucker's and Hydra's genetic experiments have gone awry, and three experimental superhuman beings have been released: Romulus, Anubis, and Guillotine. Three Hydra bounty hunters are dispatched to kill the super-humans--but Nick Fury is also in pursuit, because he wants to learn more about Hydra's genetics weapons. Greg Wright will write the first two installments, while Dan Chichester finishes up the story.

In late April, the second Annual Family story gets underway in ***Fantastic Four Annual #20*** (April 25th) then continues into Thor Annual #16 (May 2nd), ***Silver Surfer Annual 4*** (May 9th), and ***Guardians of the Galaxy Annual #1*** (May 16th). This cosmic storyline will follow the Silver Surfer's life as it progresses along the Guardians of the Galaxy timeline for the next thousand years. Al Milgrom, Tom DeFalco, Ron Marz, and Jim Valentino are the authors of the storyline, which begins when the Guardians travel back in time to meet our Fantastic Four and continues through the millennia to their own time.

The third Annual Family story begins in ***New Mutants Annual #11*** (May 23rd), and continues to ***New Warriors Annual #1*** (May 30th), ***X-Men Annual #15*** (June 6th) and ***X-Factor Annual #6*** (June 13th). Subtitled "Flesh Tears," the storyline revolves around A.I.M.'s plot to resurrect Proteus, one of the most powerful and deadly mutants ever. Cable leads the New Mutants an assault against Genetech, who's involved in the plan; they meet the New Warriors, whose methods are so radically different from the New Mutants that the teams fight before realizing that they can only accomplish their goals by working together. The plot takes them to Muir Island, where they meet the X-Men; the events of this storyline lead into a resolution of the Muir Island story in X-Men and a return of the original X-Men to the team. Fabian Nicieza is the author of all the annuals in this storyline.

In June, the three ***Spider-Man Annuals*** will comprise one long storyline. Tentatively subtitled "Crisis On This Earth," the storyline puts Spider-Man in the middle of a racially charged situation when he apprehends a black criminal at the same time the filming of a Do The Right Thing style movie has brought racial issues to a boil in New York City.

In July, the final Annual Family story runs through ***Avengers Annual #20, Avengers West Coast Annual #6, Iron Man Annual #12, Incredible Hulk Annual #4,*** and ***Namor, the Sub-Mariner Annual #1.*** Tentatively subtitled "Subterranean Odyssey," the series takes the Avengers to the depths of the Earth in a storyline involving the Mole Man, Tyrannus, Kala, and the Deviant Empire.

Each Marvel Annual will be priced at $2 and will feature short backup stories and extra features in addition to the main storyline.

by WAYNE LEE

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

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You Won't Have to Wait An Eternity To Discover the Kid's Origin...

Who *is* Kid Eternity? With the new series set to appear this month, readers who haven't been keeping up with DC's mystical characters may be wondering about this returning hero. Well, when Kid Eternity first appeared in the Golden Age (way back in ***Hit Comics #25***), he was one of many victims who died when a Nazi sub torpedoed a merchant vessel. Alas, it was soon discovered that he had died by mistake--according to the records, he wasn't supposed to have moved on to the ethereal plane for another twenty-five years. To make up for this minor error, the boy was allowed to return to Earth as a spirit to battle crime. Once he uttered the word "Eternity," he could become take either tangible or ethereal form--and he could also summon anyone in history or mythology to help him. His appearances in ***Hit Comics*** were successful enough that he went on to appear in eighteen issues of his own title in the late 1940's.

Okay, now you know Kid Eternity's origin, right? Well, maybe not...

In the final issue of ***Kid Eternity***, Grant Morrison and Duncan Fegredo reveal the true origin of Kid Eternity--and doesn't that sound as if maybe we don't know the whole story after all?... Everyone will be able to find out in ***Kid Eternity #3***, set for May 9th release--but of course, you can start at the very beginning with ***Kid Eternity #1,*** on sale any week now...

by CLIFF BIGGERS

A Simian-gly Big Year at Adventure

Adventure Comics has already offered its readers a wide variety of innovative storylines in ***Planet of the Apes*** and the various ***Apes*** spinoff miniseries; if you think you've seen it all, though, Adventure would like to gently inform you that you're quite mistaken. They have a number of new plans in the works for 1991, including an Ape wedding.

Charles Marshall, the writer of ***Ape Nation,*** will become the regular writer of ***Planet of the Apes*** beginning with ***Apes #9.*** "I have a lot of Ape ideas left to expand on," Marshall said. "I've grown very comfortable with the current cast of characters--so much so that they're starting to tell their own stories."

Speaking of stories, Marshall also announced his plans to add separate back-up tales to several issues of ***Planet of the Apes*** this year. "They're short teasers, designed to pull the reader into the story," he said. These teasers will culminate in a full-length story in ***Planet of the Apes #14.*** These back-up stories begin with "Countdown Five" in ***Planet of the Apes #9*** and run through "Countdown One" in ***Apes #13.*** The full-length story marks the first time that time-travelling present-day humans have ventured into the world of the Apes.

Marshall will be joined by a new art team, M.C. Wyman and Terry Pallot (artists of ***Ape Nation***), beginning with ***Planet of the Apes #11.*** "Kent [Burles] and Barb [Kaalberg] wanted to go on to other projects," publisher Dave Olbrich said. "We're sorry to lose them, but M.C. and Terry are worthy successors and their debut on the series comes at an excellent time, the first ever Ape wedding!"

That wedding appears in ***Planet of the Apes #12,*** scheduled for April release. Alexander and Coure are set to tie the knot in that issue--and even General Ollo is making a guest appearance!

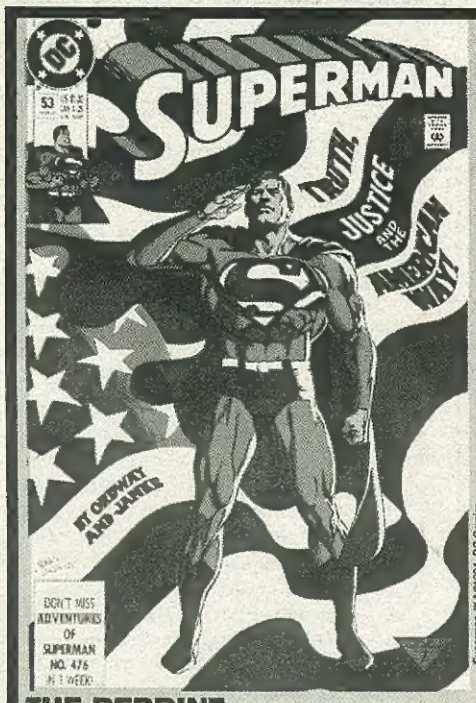
Planet of the Apes #13 offers an offbeat Apes tale, "Frito and JoJo's X-Cellent Adventure," a change-of-pace issue that follows Ape City's funniest gorilla twosome. Could it be inspired by the zaniness of a similarly-titled film?...

Adventure has contracted with several popular artists to provide covers for the ***Planet of the Apes*** series, including Chas Truog, Paul Gulacy, Mark McKenna, Peter Greaver, Greg Cravens, and Adam Adamowicz. They have also signed a new team Lowell Cunningham and Leonard Kirk, to supply another ***Apes*** mini-series, ***The Forbidden Zone***, beginning later in the year.

As it stands, ***Planet of the Apes*** is the most successful series in Adventure Comics' history. "The series is still booming along with more than satisfying results," Dave Olbrich said. "It looks like ***Apes*** fans just can't get enough. The status of Planet of the Apes and our other Apes titles is a clear indication."

by KIM B. PEARSON

NEWSBRIEFS



THE REPRINT SPREE CONTINUES

The 1990 trend to reprint hit sellout titles continues in 1991 as well: DC is planning reprints of both ***Action Comics #662*** and ***Superman #53***, featuring Superman's revelation of his secret identity to Lois Lane. Both second printings will be on the stands not too long after you read this. DC plans to make several changes in the books, including a Roman numeral II featured on the cover and color changes, so that readers can easily identify the later printings. Meanwhile, Marvel has announced tentative plans to reprint ***The 'Nam #52*** (the first part of the Punisher/Nam storyline), ***Fantastic Four #348*** (the second part of the **Simonson-Adams** trilogy), and Incredible ***Hulk 377***, the debut of the new Hulk. Again, each will be easily identifiable as second printings: Marvel intends to use metallic ink on each reprint. Isn't this better than the "good ol' days," when if you missed a hot title, you couldn't buy a reading copy for cover price?... Of course, collectors will still want the first printings as well, but there's nothing the publishers can do about that...

MOONEY WRAPPED UP IN ILLUSTRATING NEW SERIES

Jim Mooney, creator of thousands of pages of comic book art in a career that spans four decades, has signed on with Millennium comics to illustrate **Anne Rice**'s ***The Mummy*** beginning with the the second issue of the series. **Melissa Martin**, Millennium's creative director, said, "We're delighted to have Jim aboard as ***The Mummy***'s pencil artist. His natural feel for the mood and atmosphere of period pieces will bring the flair and elegance that ***The Mummy*** deserves." Mooney's pencils will be rendered in painted form by color artist **Mark Menendez**.

Mooney will also illustrate at least one story for ***Tales From the Mummy's Tomb***, a one-shot 48-page full color book from Millennium that will feature adaptations of mummy stories by **H.P. Lovecraft, Arthur Conan Doyle**, and others. ***The Wild Wild West*** team of **Mark Ellis, Darryl Banks**, and **Robert Lewis** will also produce a story for this special anthology. ***The Mummy #2***, Mooney's first issue as artist, should reach the comic shop racks this month.

GRAPHITTI'S ALMOST READY TO LAY DOWN THE LAW

Graphitti Press first announced their limited edition of Marshal Law back in the fall of 1990--well, you know how it goes with these deluxe limited edition projects...

At any rate, according to Graphitti, ***Marshal Law*** is almost ready for release at last; you can look for it in April of this year, in fact. The book collects the entire six-issue ***Marshal Law*** limited series as well as ***Crime and Punishment: Marshal Law Takes Manhattan*** in one deluxe limited edition hardcover. Both Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neill will sign the book. There are new dust jacket and signature plate illustrations and an additional eighteen-page color section that spotlights the development of the Marshal Law mythos. Since there will only be 1500 copies of this limited edition, reserve a copy now with your local comic shop--and let 'em know that you heard about it in ***CSN***, okay?

ALPHA FLIGHT GOES COSMIC

Marvel's getting ready for a cosmic spring--and we're not just referring to the upcoming ***Infinity Gauntlet*** limited series here. Beginning in April, Alpha Flight is venturing into the realm cosmic as well--leading up to a confrontation with Galactus!

"The Final Option" miniseries-within-a-series begins in ***Alpha Flight #97***, when Her and Nova (Galactus' herald, not the New Warrior) call on Alpha Flight; Her is being pursued by an alien armada, while Nova is fulfilling her duty as Galactus' herald. A month later, the Avengers unite with Alpha Flight, which paves the way for Her guest appearance in upcoming issues of Quasar. Everything escalates pretty rapidly from there, climaxing in the Alpha Flight-Avengers face off with Galactus in the hundredth issue.

In addition to the cosmic conflict, this storyline will also unveil Alpha Flight's new headquarters and establish a new status for Department H. **Fabian Nicieza**, who began his revitalization of ***Alpha Flight*** last year,is the writer for the "Final Option" storyline; **Michael Bair** and **Mike Manley** are the artists. Everything gets underway in ***Alpha Flight #97***, on sale April 11th.

PUNISHER PLAYS PART OF PIPELINE PROTECTOR

The Punisher has made a career of using virtually any means to carry out his goals--but even the Punisher knows when to stop before he goes too far and endangers innocents. In ***Punisher War Journal #31***, he meets a group of people who seem to lack such reservations: Humans Off Planet (H.O.P.), terrorists who view themselves as "ecological warriors," and will use any means to carry out their warfare against those they see as the environment's enemies. This time, they've gone too far, though: they've seized control of the Alaskan Pipeline and are threatening to destroy it unless their demands are met. It's up to the Punisher to stop them--unless their beautiful leader can dissuade him.

"Kamchatkan Konspiracy," a three-part storyline that begins in ***Punisher War Journal #31***, is written by regular series author **Mike Baron** and illustrated by the extremely popular **Andy Kubert**. **Joe Jusko** supplies the painted cover for the first issue, which is slated to reach the comic racks on May 2nd.

IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATHWORLD?

Jason dinAlt, the hero of ***Deathworld***, was lucky enough to survive his first experience on Pyrrus, the planet where every life form has evolved into an organic killing machine. Why in the world would he return to this inhospitable planet? Well, it wasn't exactly his choice. In ***Deathworld Book Two***, a four-issue limited series that gets underway in March, din Alt is kidnapped by a political fanatic. Oh, he escapes--but he runs right into the clutches of slavers! Faced with these options, the "good old days" on Pyrrus start to look pretty good...

Deathworld Book Two is written by **John Holland** and illustrated by **Marcello Campos**. **Mitch Foust** supplies the cover for the first issue, which is priced at $2.50. ***Deathworld Book Two*** is based on **Harry Harrison**'s novel entitled (appropriately enough) ***Deathworld 2***.

CLASSICS VENTURES INTO THE JUNGLE

When **Upton Sinclair** wrote ***The Jungle***, chances are he never expected it to become a classic (and he certainly never envisioned it becoming a ***Classics Illustrated***, since the comic book didn't even exist then). Some initially accused his work of being a muckraking tale, but it soon transcended that and went on to become a vital element of urban change. The book points out the ugliness of the urban jungle and, among other things, brought major changes to the meat-packing industries. In May, First will publish **Peter Kuper**'s adaptation of Sinclair's ***The Jungle*** as ***Classics Illustrated #27***.

The same month, ***Classics Illustrated #26*** will publish **Eric Vincent**'s adaptation of a much gentler work: ***Aesop's Fables***. These fables have fascinated readers for centuries now; Vincent will adapt several of the short animal fables to comics form in one 48-page ***Classics Illustrated***. Both of these ***Classics*** are slated for May 23rd release. (Of course, if that isn't enough for you, Fantagraphics is continuing its ***Aesop's Fables*** comic series, featuring black-and-white adaptations of the fables by a variety of artists....)

SLAINE: THE SLAYER OR THE SLAIN?

The final installment of Slaine's battle to unseat the present Horned God and take his place is completed at last, and ready for April release. ***Slaine The Horned God Book Three*** "contains scenes of such utter savagery and bloodletting as to be a beloved addition to anyone's library for years to come!" Fleetway says--and since the artist for the series is **Simon Bisley**, whose work in ***Lobo*** had a certain shall-we-say-brutal-charm to it, that's no surprise to anyone. When the ***Slaine*** trilogy began last year, many people had heard of writer **Pat Mills**, but few of you knew who Bisley was; thanks to ***Lobo***, though, there should be a lot of people clamoring for the finale to this epic adventure. ***Slaine The Horned God Book Three***, a 64-page full-color graphic novel on heavy stock, is priced at $7.95.

COMIC SHOP NEWS
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NEWSBRIEFS

THE VAMPIRE STALKS IN VAIN

What can a vampire do in a post-apocalyptic world bereft of victims? That's the questions that **Phillipe Druillet** answers in ***Nosferatu,*** a one-shot scheduled for March release from Dark Horse. **Mike Richardson,** Dark Horse publisher, will be editing the comic book, which is being translated by **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier.** "I'm very pleased to be able to present this fantastic work to comic book enthusiasts here in the states," Richardson said. "Druillet's work is stunning and this tale in particular is an eerie delight!...This is a must-have item for fans of horror, science fiction, and, of course, Druillet completists. The cover art to this volume features an evocative graphic design by the artist which is enhanced by a special three-color printing process employing black, white, and silver." ***Nosferatu*** is a 64-page black-and-white comic book published in the same format as ***Cheval Noir.*** It will have a cover price of $3.95.

AN ALL-STAR LINE-UP

Previous portfolios in SQP's ***Conan Color Classics*** series have been devoted to the work of a single artist; ***Conan Color Classics Set Nine: The Gallery Collection,*** will break with that form to feature the art of six acclaimed illustrators. **John Buscema, Joe Jusko, Howard Chaykin, Dan Adkins, Frank Brunner,** and **Clyde Caldwell** are the illustrators whose Conan covers are featured in this portfolio of six 11" x 14" plates, packaged in a clear plastic slipcase with a certificate of authenticity verifying that this is one of only 2000 portfolio sets produced. ***Conan Color Classics Set Nine*** is priced at $25; look for it in April. As with all portfolio items of this sort, you might want to reserve ***Conan Color Classics*** with your local comic shop--and tell 'em you heard about it in ***CSN,*** okay?...

NUCLEAR WINTER GETS A LATE START

Nuclear Winter Blues, the new series by **Gabriel Morrissette,** won't be appearing in March as initially announced in ***CSN.*** The delay isn't caused by late artwork or anything like that; instead, creator Morrissette has asked Caliber to reschedule the book because he wasn't happy with the work he had done for the first issue, so he's redrawing the entire book!

Now it looks like ***Nuclear Winter Blues*** will hit the stands in July. Here's a little bonus for being so patient, though: **Paul Chadwick, *Concrete*'s** creator, will supply the cover for the first issue, while other guest artists will supply covers for future issues.

2001 NIGHTS CREATOR CUT HIS TEETH ON SABER TIGER

Yukinobu Hoshino's ***2001 Nights*** is a favorite of science fiction fans, but as the end of the series approaches, the book's readers are already wondering what's next? Fret not, fans, because Viz Comics already has contracted to publish Hoshino's earlier work in a single graphic-novel sized Viz Spectrum edition under the title ***Saber Tiger.***

Saber Tiger features two hard-sf stories by Hoshino. "Saber Tiger" tells about future humans travelling into the prehistoric past to save the future of mankind; "The Planet of Unicorns" features a planet with a mysterious sound that alters the natural social instincts of any creatures that hear it.

Saber Tiger, an 80-page black-and-white graphic novel with full color covers, is priced at $12.95; look for it in May.

TALES TOO TERRIBLE TO TELL READY TO BE TOLD AT LAST

Tales Too Terrible To Tell, the 1950's reprint series published by NEC, has been on hiatus while the publishers worked out the publishing glitches. You see, it isn't easy to do quality reprintings of 1950's comics material; the technical aspects can be very intimidating. NEC discovered that the actual preparation of the material was much more time-consuming than they expected, so they weren't able to release *T*^{5} #2 or #3 in 1990 as they had originally hoped. They are set to go to press with the second and third issues in March, though, and according to NEC, "Now that we've worked out the technical complications of reprinting comics from the 1950's while preserving reproduction quality, we expect to be able to maintain ***Tales Too Terrible To Tell*** on a quarterly schedule. This title will always be distinguished from competing reprint product by virtue of its care and attention to detail, its 'friendly' reader-directed approach and its generous offering of story pages and interesting features." Each 64-page issue is priced at $3.50 and showcases pre-Code horror stories along with intriguing articles and lots of cover reproductions.

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FLASH!
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SPECIAL

Red K Awards

Our Readers Get A Piece of The Rock

Back in *Comic Shop News #183*, you were introduced to our first annual Red K Awards--so named, as we explained then, because "like the red kryptonite so fondly remembered from those Mort Weisinger era Superman stories, you never know what to expect next!" In *CSN #184*, we encouraged you readers to send us your Red K Awards nominees--and send 'em you did! We received over a hundred and forty responses to the little squib asking for new awards, and we wanted to offer you a peek at some of the best.

The "Let's Get On With It" Award

The Legion of Night (Epic)
Twilight (DC)

"Both these series were announce dand scheduled for 1990, but have yet to appear on the comic shop shelves." - *Tony Bowers*

The "You Mean To Be a Hit, All I Had To Do Was Change My Costume?" Award

Robin
Ghost Rider.

"'Nuff said, already!" - *Frank Weisbly*

The Welcome Home Award

John Byrne for X-Men 273

According to *Steven Robinson*, "*X-Men 273* featured a monumental event--the return of John Byrne (if only for a few pages) to the title he'd made famous; if only he could've stayed..."

The "It's Better the Second Time Around" Award

Namor
Ghost Rider
Nova
Deathlok
Silver Surfer
Animal Man
Angel and the Ape

There were many derivations of this award, but it all boiled down to the same idea: if at first you don't succeed...

The "Break the Bank" Award

Marvel & DC (jointly) for this Christmas-season hardcover releases

"So much good stuff, but so much money," moaned *Jason Glanville*. "I had planned on picking up a lot of these books when they were scheduled to come out over a three month period, but they all ended up showing up in about a three week period instead, and my budget couldn't handle it!" You weren't alone, Jason; five other *CSN* readers felt this deserved some sort of award. *CSN*'s Cliff Biggers and Brett Brooks did a little bit of math and found out that, if you tried to pick up all the major hardcovers released between Thanksgiving and Christmas, you needed about three hundred bucks to do it--if you weren't buying any regular comics at the same time, that is...

The "None of 'Em Are Mint" Award

Marvel's 1990 Annuals

"Did the printers for these books actually find a paper that was flimsier than the interior paper of the comics?" *Jeff Dunsmore* asked. "I went through stacks of thirty or forty books look for a copy or two that was at least approximately flat, and I never could find one! Please don't do this to us again, guys!"

The "Maybe He Should Start His Own Company" Award

Ghost Rider

Several readers nominated Ghost Rider for derivations of this award, but *Ron Carter* summed it up most succinctly: "It might be quicker to list the books that Ghost Rider doesn't guest-star in each month."

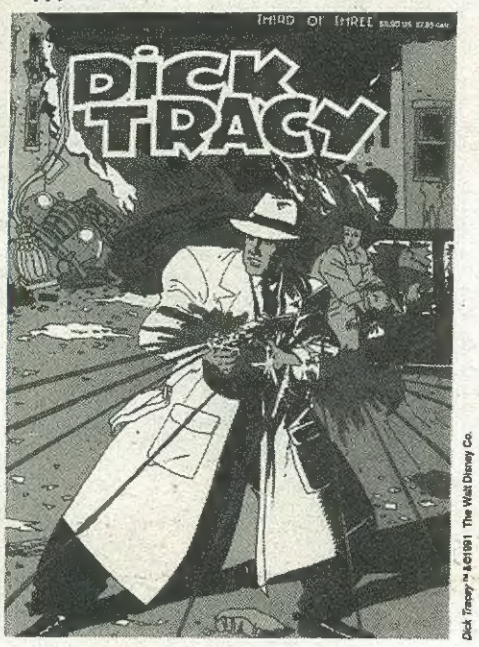
The "Maybe They'll Do A Monthly" Award

Bill Mumy (writer)
Art Adams (artist)
"Both these guys did entertaining series-within-a-series this year--perhaps they can get it together for a monthly book!" - *Tony Bowers*

The "At Least They're Ready For the Sequel" Award

Dick Tracy Merchandising

"If they ever decide to make another Dick Tracy film, stores are all set; from what I've seen, they're all amply stocked with Dick Tracy figures, buttons, t-shirts, mugs, books, and the like," *Benjamin McCollum* said. You may be right, Benjamin--but you can be sure that the stores aren't very happy about it...



The [illegible] (Movies In Absentia) Award

Spider-Man
Punisher
Captain America
Delta Tenn

These awards also came in from a variety of fans; the *Punisher* and *Captain America* films were most often named, but the *Spider-Man* film got several nominations simply because it was talked up so much (at one point, there were even rumors that Tom Cruise was looking at the role of Peter Parker) and then never happened. As for *Delta Tenn*--well, Shannon Tweed has recently appeared in a starring role on another television series, so it looks like she's put Delta Tenn on hold for the time being.

The Made For Each Other Award

John Ostrander and Batman
Ostrander's interpretation of Batman must have made quite an impression, since three different readers nominated him for one version of this award or another. You guys listening over at DC?...

Steven Robinson, who was one of the three who thought so much of Ostrander's Batman, offered a second nominee for this award: *Erik Larsen and Wolverine*. Referring to Larsen's Wolverine-Spider-Man three-parter in *Marvel Comics Presents 48-50*, Robinson said, "no angst, no self-doubt, no long soliloquies--just slice and dice, man, slice and dice..."

The Ferocious Four Award

Wolverine, Hulk, Spider-Man, and Ghost Rider

Eleven readers were ready for a second Fantastic Four title after reading the exploits of this quartet in *FF #347-349*--but reader *Aileen Evenson* offered the best name (two readers suggested *Fantastic Four West Coast*, but neither one explained how that would work, since these guys tend to hang out in New York...).

"You Can't Read Just One" Award

DC's TSR Gaming Comics

"Need another monkey on your back?" *Gus Fulton II* asks. If so, he recommends you try the DC/TSR comics series. "No matter which issue you start reading, you just gotta know what happens next," Gus laments.

The "Crossover That Should Have Been" Award

Terminator/Married With Children

This one got a rousing cheer from *CSN*'s Cliff Biggers, who suggested this as a joke several months ago and then promptly forgot about it when it was time for the Red K Awards. As *Jerry Meissner* said, "Hey, if Dark Horse could cross over *Aliens* and *Predator* and Adventure Comics could cross over *Planet of the Apes* and *Alien Nation*, why couldn't Now Comics cross over its two best-known licensed books? It would have to be a one-issue limited series, though..."

The Good Guy Award

Streamline Productions For the Akira Video

Eleven people had nothing but praise for Streamline's release of the translated *Akira* film on videotape (even though at the time these folks wrote, they hadn't seen the tape--they'd heard about it in *CSN*, though). "I don't live within two hundred miles of a city that was going to show the Akira film," *Leon Blackwood* said. "I thought I was going to have to settle for a washed-out questionable videotape of the film in Japanese. Imagine my surprise when I read that someone took pity on those of us who don't live in major urban areas; thank you thank you thank you!"

The "So Who Missed a Deadline?" Award

The Death of Jean DeWolff, The Life of Captain Marvel, Pogo, Johnny Comet, P. Craig Russell's Opera Book, Marvel Masterworks, Greatest Flash Stories--in fact, virtually any late reprint collection

You folks are really cold when it comes to late books; nine different awards were offered to late reprint collections. *Loren Hardemann* summed up the general concensus of opinion when he wrote, "Okay, when a new miniseries is late, they tell us 'The writer missed his deadline' or "The artist took forever.' So what's the excuse on a late reprint book? Come on! These pages were finished years ago (sometimes even decades ago!)!"

The No-Win Situation Award

Kevin Eastman & Peter Laird

"These two could have given the new Turtles series to anyone," *Frank Weisbly* writes. "They narrowed it down to three companies: Archie, DC, and Marvel... II'm really not interested in reading TMNT Vs. Wolver-

FEATURE

ine, or seeing Raphael, with his adamantium sais, join the X-Men (because he's a mutant) but later join the New Mutants because--well, he's a teenager! The TMNT join the Teen Titans (Teenage Mutant Ninja Titans?)? I don't think so! So what happens...Archie puts out TMNT meets Archie! Aaargh!"

And showing what a true no-win situation this crossover was, *CSN* reader *Lisa Epps* nominated the same book for "Crossover of the Year," because, as she put it, "Everyone else turns a crossover into one big fight scene. Archie proved that you could have an interesting fight scene without having the characters punch each other for ten pages." It *is* a real no-win situation indeed!

"Best Use of a Four-Letter Word" Award

Doom Patrol 32, Page 17, Panel 3

"A Pale Police agent, who speaks only in anagrams, is about to kill Willoughby Kipling when he is surprised from behind by Rebis," *Jeff Bar* wrote to tell us. "In his shock, the agent yells out, 'THIS!'"

Doom Patrol ™ &©1991 DC Comics

The Misnomer Award

Adult Comics

"If they're called adult comics, then why are the stories nothing more than ten-year-olds' fantasies about what it would be like to be an adult?" *Jeannie Behrens* asks. Several other readers had some unkind things to say about the number and "quality" of a lot of the so-called "adult audience" books on the stands; maybe this is a trend whose time has gone.

The "Don't Stop Now" Award

Black Terror
Nomad
Robin
Wild Wild West
The Hobbit
Aliens

Several readers, including *Steven Robinson, Alan Haynie, David Thornton, and Micah Weissman*, called for continuations of these series in 1990. As Alan Haynie said it, "There are a lot of books I'd be willing to clear out of the way to make space for some of these."

The Teamwork Award

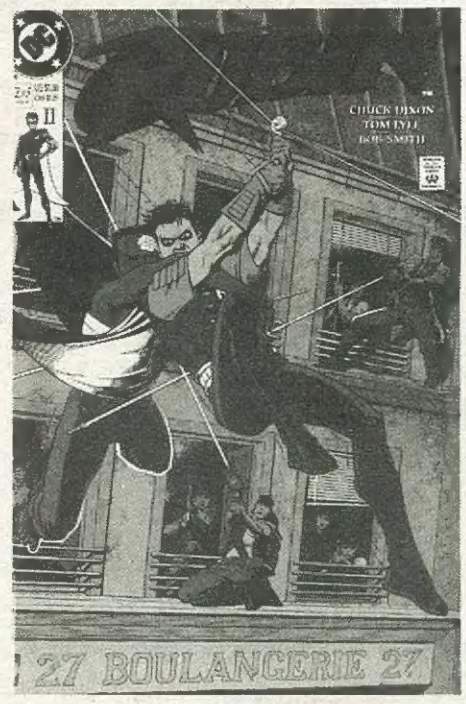
The Creators of the various Superman titles

"Congratulations to DC for putting together a group of writers and artists who can plan ahead and make it seem like we have a three-times-a-month Superman title instead of three unrelated monthly books," *Jordan Lucas* wrote. "I wish Marvel would do the same thing with their Spider-Man titles."

And that's just a few of the many awards you readers sent in. Of course, some of them weren't quite as nice--we won't name names, but it's safe to say that *CSN*'s readers are very intolerant of (1) late books, (2) fill-in writers and artists, (3) price increases, and (4) overpriced graphic novels. Six readers also gave some rather uncomplimentary awards to comic book companies' subscription services--which is why we keep telling you guys to buy your comics at your local comic shop, where you can get mint copies on time (and you can get *CSN* to boot!).

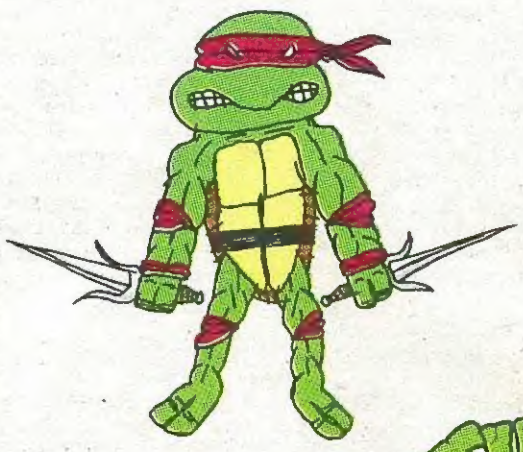
Robin ™ &©1991 DC Comics

Before we close, we should answer a query that twenty-two of you mailed us. On page 5 of *CSN 183*, we gave a "Maybe You Should Send Him the Chart Before He Does the Cover" Award to *Robin #2*, which we said featured "a bullet ripping through Robin's cape, while DC's handy diagram of Robin's armor reveals that the cape is made of seventeen layer kevlar." *Matt Reader* said, "You guys goofed on this one," but *Frank Weisbly* dug a little deeper and found out that it wasn't actually a goof on our part after all. "I went through my comic book collection and found my *Comic Shop News 179*," Frank said. "On your picture there is a bullet going through the cape. My hypothesis is, DC figured it out,a nd during print blackened out the hole." *Hilary Davenport* went even further and concluded that "this means that there are two covers out there, one with the hole and one without, and I bet we see a $50 price guide listing for the one with the hole before a year is up." Probably not, Hilary; as Frank guessed, DC noticed the problem (probably at the same time *CSN* did, if not even earlier) and had the illo touched up before the book went to press, not after. Now if *anyone* has a *Robin #2* featuring a cover drawing with a bullet whizzing through Robin's cape, send us a photo of yourself with the book and prove us wrong...

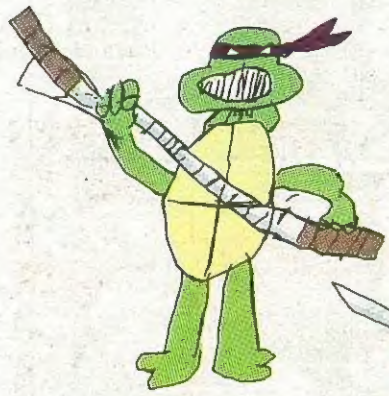


Thanks to everyone who helped out with this year's *CSN* Red K Awards--and we'll look to see all of you here in *CSN 235* or so, when it's time to do it all again!

RAPHAEL
Jason Lewis
Sacramento, CA
Age 11



SHREDDER
Lucas Ward
Colorado Springs, CO
Age 11



DONATELLO
Adam Entizne
Baldwin, MO
Age 7

LEONARDO (in disguise)
Ernest Wan
New York, NY
Age 8

TURTLES FAN ART

YOU CAN WRITE TO THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES C/O THIS NEWSPAPER.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 1991 MIRAGE STUDIOS

Z-10

NEWS & NOTES

Spidey's Foes Get Mini-Series of Their Own

Spider-Man is so popular that he can support five different Marvel titles each month, plus a new ***Spider-Man Saga*** miniseries beginning in '91. Marvel is convinced that the hero's potential still isn't fully realized, though, so they're adding another Spider-Man related title beginning in March--with the promise of still another miniseries looming on the horizon for later in the year.

The Deadly Foes of Spider-Man is a four-issue limited series that presents Spider-Man in battle with some of his most memorable villains--but this series tells of the conflicts from point of view of Spider-Man's enemies! The Beelte, the Rhino, Hydro-Man, Boomerang, Speed Demon, and arch-adversary the Kingpin are all featured in this series; the Kingpin is the brains behind the group, which operates under the name The Sinister Syndicate (not to be confused with the Sinister Six, the nasties who nearly defeated Spider-Man in last summer's biweekly series).

The Deadly Foes of Spider-Man is written by Danny Fingeroth and illustrated by Kerry Gammill and Al Milgrom. (This series was already well into production before Fingeroth was appointed editor of ***Amazing Spider-Man, Web of Spider-Man,*** and ***Spectacular Spider-Man.***) Skip Deitz of Marvel's direct sales department says, "Spidey fans love 'twist' stories--like the cosmic power and powerless Spidey stories--and this series gives fans the ultimate twist: seeing Spidey almost as the story's 'villain,' just as his foes think of him."

The Deadly Foes of Spider-Man #1, the kick-off issue of a four-issue limited series, is slated for March 14th release; each issue is priced at $1.

The Sinister Syndicate isn't the only Spidey-villain miniseries that Marvel has on its agenda, though; according to Deitz, plans are also in the works for a ***Venom*** limited series. No release date or creative team has been announced for this series yet; those of you who can't wait to see Venom in action will be able to enjoy his appearance in ***Spider-Man*** #346 and #347, on sale in February and March.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

One Tick Spawns Three!

A while back, we told you about the upcoming double issue of ***The Tick***. Well, forget all that; now the double issue has spawned *three* single issues! That's right; the story that was to have appeared in ***The Tick #9/10*** has grown so that it will now run in ***The Tick***#9, #10, and #11! This three-parter will introduce the Tick's most unusual villain, the Chainsaw Vigilante. According to NEC, the publishers of ***The Tick***, "Since the publication of The Tick Family Portrait on the back of issue #1, featuring many characters scheduled to appear in upcoming Ticks, the Chainsaw Vigilante has been Number One in terms of consumer interest. In fact, a week doesn't go by without at least a half-dozen letters demanding to know when the Chainsaw Vigilante would make his first appearance in ***The Tick.*** Well, here he is at last!" ***The Tick #9,*** a 32-page black and white comic priced at $2.75, is written and pencilled by Ben Edlund and illustrated by Dave Garcia. Look for it in March.

by ANTHONY WHITE

BATMAN™ by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

THE RIDDLER STRIKES...
RIDDLE ME THIS...! WHEN ARE FEET LIKE TURTLE-DOVES...?
HEY!
2/11/91
WHEN THEY HAVE WINGS! HA HA!
TWO HOURS LATER, IN WASHINGTON, D.C....
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S BEEN STOLEN?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
IN A CHEAP HOTEL IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM...
HUH... THIS LOCK'S A REAL PUZZLE!
2/12/91
MEANWHILE, ACROSS TOWN...
COMMISSIONER GORDON...?
YES?
THIS IS MS. BAIN AND DR. LANDAU FROM THE DEPT. OF...
WE HAVE AN URGENT PROBLEM, COMMISSIONER.
YES. AHEM... MOST VITAL AND MOST SECRET.
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
LATE AT NIGHT, A LONELY SIGNET BURNS ACROSS THE CLOUDS...
2/13/91
AND, IN WAYNE MANOR...
OH, NO.
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO GET HIM TO REST TONIGHT, ISN'T IT, ALFRED?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THERE IS NO NEED TO DO THIS.
I CAN'T IGNORE THE SIGNAL, ALFRED.
OF COURSE NOT, SIR. IT IS MUCH PREFERABLE THAT YOU BLEED INTERNALLY!
IS HE COMING?
HE'S NEVER REFUSED BEFORE.
2/14/91
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THIS IS A FARCE! HE'S NOT COMING!
WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN...
2/15/91
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
WE ARE ALL BUSY, MS. BAIN. BUT YOU ASKED FOR THIS MEETING...
IT IS HIM!
SOMETHING...VERY DANGEROUS AND VALUABLE HAS BEEN STOLEN AND YOU MUST RECOVER IT FOR US IMMEDIATELY!
OH, I MUST, MUST I?
DON'T BE FLIPPANT! THIS IS FEDERAL BUSINESS! IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU HELP US!
SUPPOSE YOU GIVE ME THE DETAILS, THEN?
2/16/91
THIS IS ALL THE DESCRIPTION YOU NEED. IT'S A METAL SUITCASE, ABOUT THREE FEET LONG.
AND INSIDE ...?
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
THE CONTENTS ARE CLASSIFIED.
INTERESTING.
I DON'T WORK BLIND. I SUGGEST YOU HIRE A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™

GEE...WHERE D'YA SUPPOSE HE'S TAKING US?
I DON'T KNOW, BRO--I JUST HOPE IT ISN'T A DEAD END...!
NO KIDDING.
2-11
HEY--I WONDER IF HE EXPECTS A TIP?
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
I THINK IT'S MORE LIKE-- WHERE DO WE GO?
SAME THING, REALLY...
BUT DUDES... DOESN'T ALL THIS STRIKE YOU AS BEING A BIT SURREAL...?
2-12
OH, I'D SAY IT'S REAL ENOUGH.
OK... SO WHERE DO WE GO?
SEEMS OUR TRAVEL AGENT HERE KNOWS WHERE TO SEND US...
2-13
YEAH, WELL LET'S NOT FORGET THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR MASTER SPLINTER...!
I SAY WE TRY TO GET BACK ON THE TRAIL OF MASTER SPLINTER...
CHECK IT OUT--OL' SMILEY BEGAN POINTING AGAIN AS SOON AS LEO MENTIONED SPLINTER...!
EASIER SAID THAN DONE, LEO.
2-14
THEN MAYBE HE KNOWS WHERE SPLINTER IS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S A HE...?
SO, THE DEAD-HEAD DOES KNOW WHERE MASTER SPLINTER IS...! SO WHAT ARE WE STILL HANGING AROUND HERE FOR? LET'S ROLL!
WHOA!
GEE, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WANTS...?
2-15
UT-OH!
?
CLARRAIN LAWYOU BERGER KELLEHER

GREEN TIP™

VISIT A ZOO
BY VISITING A ZOO, YOU'LL LEARN ABOUT THE EARTH AND THE MANY CREATURES THAT LIVE UPON IT. SOME ZOOS EVEN SHOW YOU WHICH OF ITS ANIMALS ARE IN DANGER OF BECOMING EXTINCT. ASK YOUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE ANIMALS.
2-16

NEWS & NOTES

Marvel Presents Ghost-to-Ghost Action

Ghost Rider just may be the hit comeback of 1990; the book has consistently been one of Marvel's most popular titles since its debut last March, and interest in the character has been so intense that even the earlier ***Ghost Rider*** series has been selling out in comic-shop backstock boxes across the nation. In March of this year, interest in the earlier incarnation of Ghost Rider should be stronger than ever when Johnny Blaze, the original motorcycle-mounted Ghost Rider, catches up with the new Spirit of Vengeance in ***Ghost Rider #13.***

Johnny Blaze went through an arduous process to free himself from his Ghost Rider persona--but that doesn't mean that he's thrilled that there's another Ghost Rider out there on the pavement wreaking vengeance. Blaze has travelled cross-country on his motorcycle for this confrontation--and while he isn't the Ghost Rider any longer, "Blaze still has some power of his own to make this a real rematch!" according to Skip Deitz of Marvel Comics.

Deitz also emphasizes that this isn't a one-time appearance; Johnny Blaze is returning to the Marvel Universe as a recurring character beginning with this book--and there's even a possible limited series in the works for this former Ghost Rider!

Ghost Rider #13 will be written by regular series author Howard Mackie; Mark Texiera will handle both pencil and inking honors on this issue, which is sure to please his growing number of fans. ***Ghost Rider #13*** is scheduled for March 14th release.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

Sleepwalker Dreams of Comics Success

In the entertainment medium, a "sleeper" is a work that proves far more successful than anyone anticipated, steadily gaining audience popularity on its own virtues without a great deal of hype or hoopla. In the realm of Marvel's new hero, Sleepwalker, the term takes on a totally different meaning--but it's quite possible that the former definition will also apply to the new ***Sleepwalker*** series that's debuting in mid-April.

Sleepwalker is the latest entry in Marvel's "Wild Ones" series of first issues. It's hard to envision him as a hero; his gaunt, alien, almost skeletal features have an eerie, frightening quality. But he is indeed a hero--albeit one who can only enter our world when his host, Rick Sheridan, is asleep.

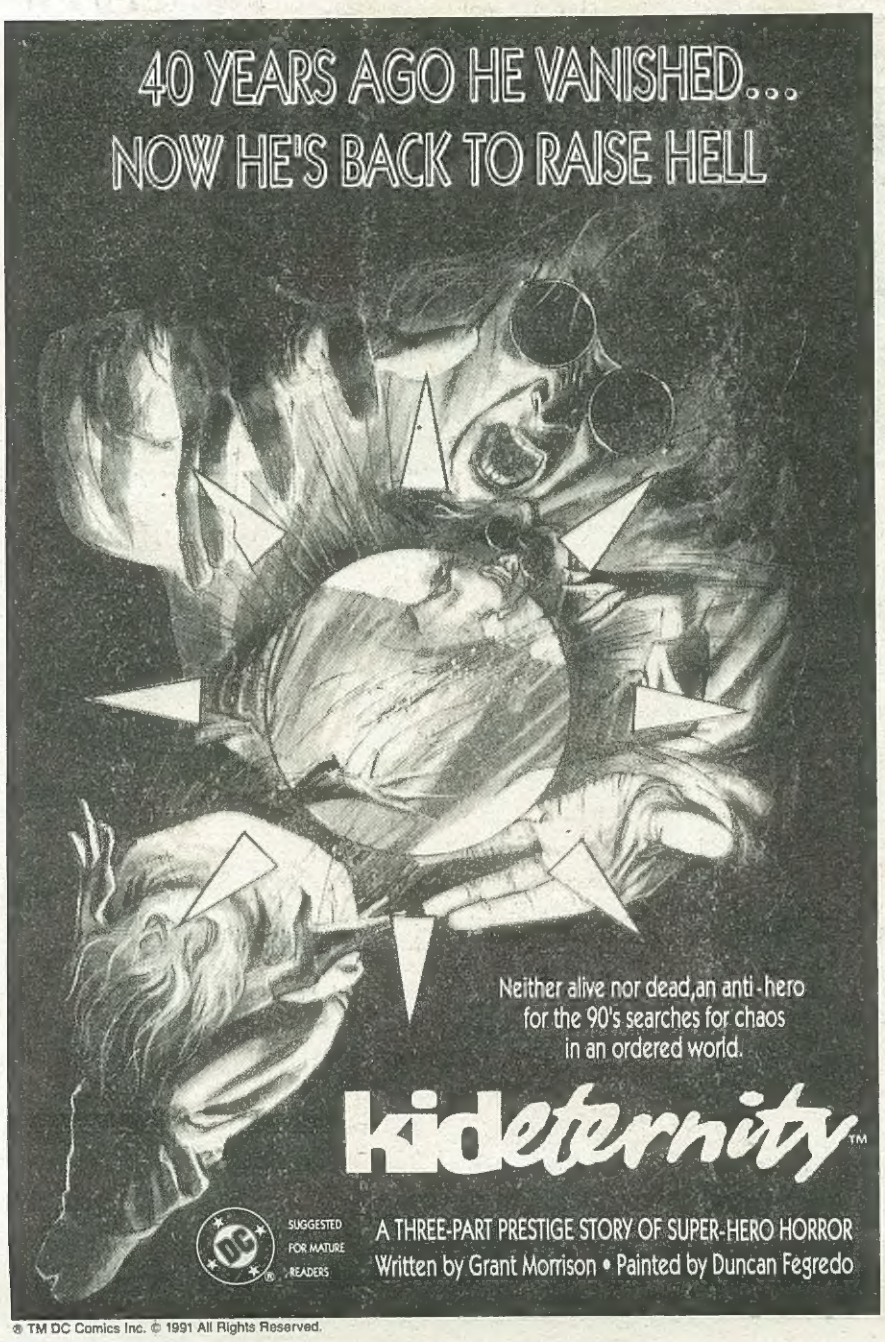
Rick Sheridan is a college student who is, at least in the beginning, a most unwilling host to Marvel's new hero. Sheridan wants Sleepwalker out of his mind--but Sleepwalker is making himself right at home, occupying Rick's dreamworld when he's not walking about in the real world. When he comes into the world of the Marvel Universe, Sleepwalker has incredible powers, including a power that Marvel's Direct Sales Assistant Manager Skip Dietz describes as "warp vision, which can alter reality in nightmarish ways."

Sleepwalker's adventures take place both in Sheridan's dreams and in the real world; in upcoming issues, he will meet dream versions of the X-Men, X-Factor, the Fantastic Four, and the Avengers, while he will meet the very real Spider-Man (let's hope Spidey doesn't mistake him for a cousin of the Hobgoblin!). Cementing his relationship with the Marvel Universe, Marvel will also include Sleepwalker in the cosmic multi-crossover series ***The Infinity Gauntlet,*** the Jim Starlin-George Perez series debuting later in the spring.

Sleepwalker is written by Bob Budiansky, who wrote many of the adventures of the earlier incarnation of ***Ghost Rider.*** Bret Blevins, whose work has appeared in ***New Mutants*** and ***Nightbreed***, will illustrate Sleepwalker's exploits.

Sleepwalker has some stellar company insofar as Marvel's 1991 first-issue program is concerned, what with ***Deathlok, X-Force***, and the deluxe ***X-Men*** title scheduled for release later this year--but with Sleepwalker's decidedly surreal approach that Marvel hopes will appeal to readers of that other somnambulant hero, DC's ***Sandman,*** he just might become a sleeper hit after all...

by CLIFF BIGGERS


40 YEARS AGO HE VANISHED...
NOW HE'S BACK TO RAISE HELL
Neither alive nor dead,an anti-hero
for the 90's searches for chaos
in an ordered world.
kideternity™
SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS
A THREE-PART PRESTIGE STORY OF SUPER-HERO HORROR
Written by Grant Morrison • Painted by Duncan Fegredo
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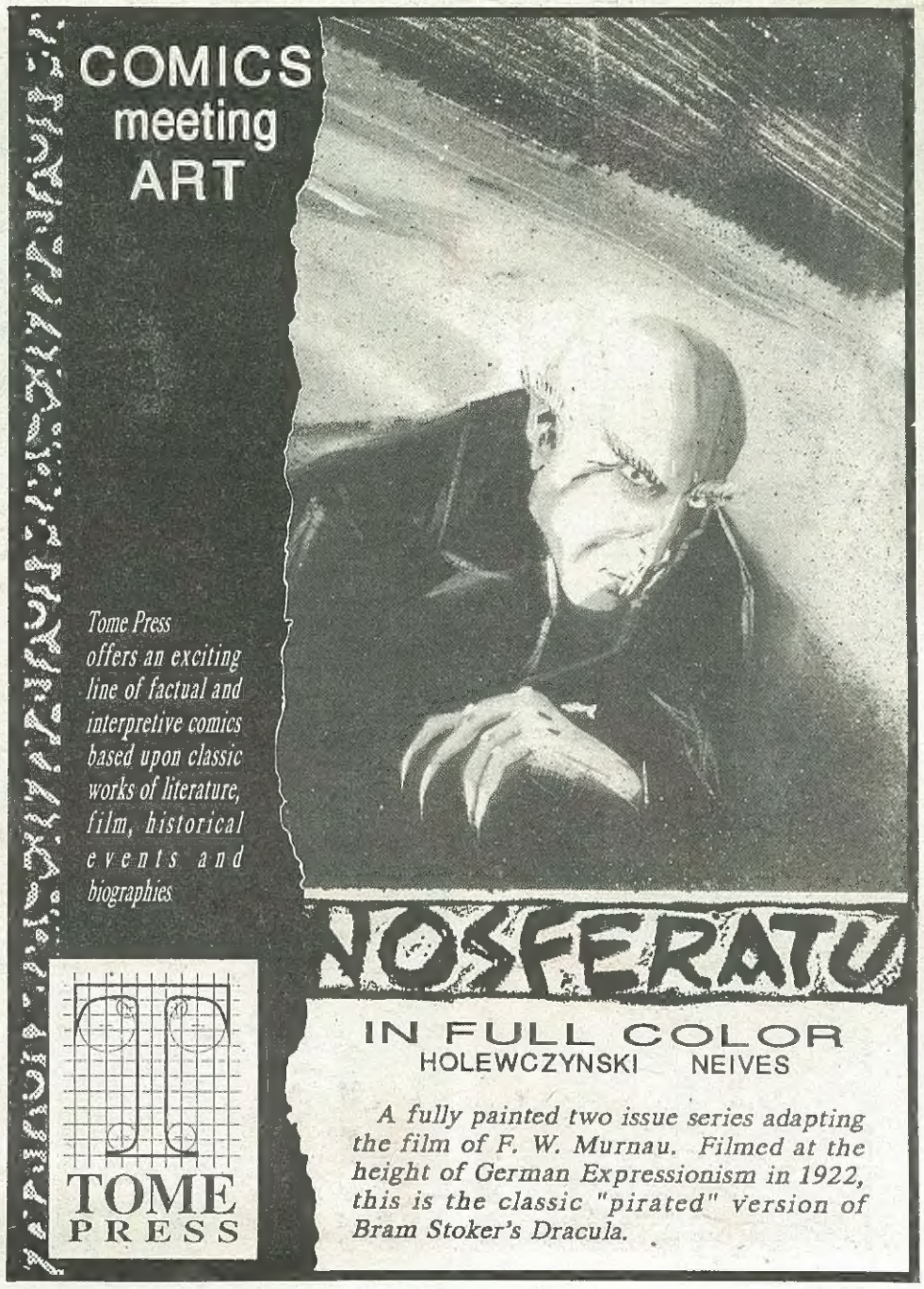
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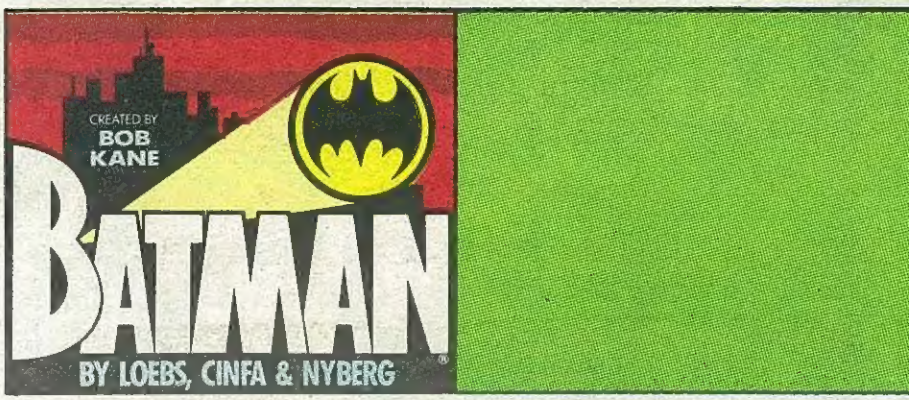
A fully painted two issue series adapting the film of F. W. Murnau. Filmed at the height of German Expressionism in 1922, this is the classic "pirated" version of Bram Stoker's Dracula.


CREATED BY
BOB
KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

A SUCCESSFUL CRIMINAL HAS A GOOD GIMMICK...
RIDDLE ME THIS...

UNFORTUNATELY, IF ALL THE GOOD GIMMICKS HAVE BEEN PICKED...
"HOW IS A ROBBED RABBIT LIKE A JUMPED JEWELRY CLERK ...?"
UMM...

YIKE! YIKE! YIKE!
BRRATTATTATT

THREE UNSUCCESSFUL ROBBERIES LATER...
PHELPS! YOU GOT THE STUFF?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

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